

nopus superbus, *P. ionozonus*, *P. coronulatus*, *P. aurantiifrons*, and *Ptilonopus nanus*, which for the most part inhabit New Guinea, Aru Islands, and North Australia. A bird strictly Papuan, one of the largest of this family, is the Crested Pigeon, or *Goura*, of which four species are known, viz.—*G. victoriae*, *G. coronata*, *G. albertisi*, and *G. sclateri*, although the former has not been yet found on the Papuan continent. *G. coronata* is found on the north-west, and *G. albertisi* on the eastern peninsulas, and *G. sclateri* in the central part of New Guinea, where I discovered it during my first visit to the Fly. During my second trip I found it also at Kataw River. If in the Papuan forest lives this gigantic form of the family, there we also find a dwarf in the rare and pretty *Ptilonopus nanus*. *Dendrocygna guttata*, *D. vagans*, *Nettapus pulchellus*, *Pelecanus conspicillatus*, *Hæmatopus longirostris*, *Mycteria australis*, and *Tachypetes prion*, &c. are all birds common to the Aru Islands and Australia, and only lately added to the list of New-Guinea birds. I wish I could give the specific name of a beautiful Cassowary, of which I possess a skin and skeleton; but so many species of this bird have been lately described, that I do not venture to say to which it belongs, though I am inclined to think it may be a *Casuaris australis**.

XXXII.—Notices of Recent Publications.

[Continued from p. 249.]

30. *Baldwin's 'Large and Small Game of Bengal.'*

[The Large and Small Game of Bengal and the North-western Provinces of India. By Captain J. H. Baldwin, F.G.S. 8vo. London: Henry S. King and Co.]

The larger portion of the 400 pages which compose this handsome volume is devoted to the various Mammals which in India attract the sportsman's first notice; but some 150

* [It is more probably the species noticed by Sclater (P. Z. S. 1875, p. 86) as *C. beccarii*, but which, we believe, Prof. Salvadori considers not to be identical with *C. beccarii* of the Aru Islands.—EDD.]

pages are likewise occupied with an account of the Pheasants, Pea-fowl, Partridges, Bustards, Plovers, and other so-called "Game-birds" of that rich and varied fauna. There is nothing scientific about the book; but the technical names from Jerdon and short descriptions of each species are given, and the many interesting notes on the habits of the birds and sporting adventures with them will no doubt render it very popular.

31. '*Vagrancy Acts.*'

[*Vagrancy Acts.* By A. C. McM., 25th March, 1875. For Private Circulation. Trimulgherry: printed at the Military-Prison Press. 1 vol., 8vo, 260 pp.]

Under this curious title a well known Indian sportsman, who usually rejoices in the pseudonym of "Vagrant," has reprinted a series of his papers upon the field-sports of India, amongst which are many of interest to the ornithologist. They contain chiefly observations made at some of the hill-stations of Madras and Central India, though there are also some notes on the birds of Burmah.

32. *Orton's 'Andes and the Amazon.'*

[The Andes and the Amazon; or across the continent of South America. By James Orton, A.M. Third edition, revised and enlarged, containing notes of a second journey across the continent from Para to Lima and Lake Titicaca. 8vo. New York: 1876.]

Professor Orton has published a third edition of this instructive work, which is probably well known to most of our readers—though, except the chapter "On Condors and Humming-birds," there is nothing strictly ornithological in it. In his second journey Prof. Orton ascended the Amazons to Yurimaguas on the Huallaga (about a month's voyage, not including stoppages), and crossed thence to the Pacific by Balsa Puerto, Moyobamba, Chachapoyas, and Cajamarca. We can fancy no more interesting route for a naturalist, especially when we bear in mind that Chachapoyas is the home of *Loddigesia mirabilis*!

33. '*Log-letters from the Challenger.*'

[*Log-letters from the 'Challenger.'* By Lord George Campbell. 1 vol. 8vo, 1876. London: Macmillan and Co.]

So far as regards science the author of these letters would not seem to be a very promising son of his respected father; but he has written a very pleasant and readable book, which, as the first published narrative of the doings of the greatest scientific expedition of the period, will command the attention of naturalists. The account of the Penguin-rookeries and other sea-birds' breeding-peculiarities at Nightingale Island (p. 60), Marion Island (p. 76), Kerguelen Land (p. 83), and Heard Island (p. 96), will specially interest the ornithologist. Admiralty Island was perhaps the least-known place visited, and produces "*Nutmeg-Pigeons*" (*Carpophagæ*) in great abundance, besides other birds, of which we shall doubtless have a correct account in due time.

34. '*The Cruise of the Challenger.*'

[*The Cruise of H.M.S. 'Challenger.'* Voyages over many seas, scenes in many lands. By W. J. J. Spry, R.N. 1 vol. 8vo, 1876. London: Sampson, Low, and Co.]

Mr. Spry's account of the '*Challenger's*' voyage is not in our opinion so well written as that of Lord George Campbell, and contains even less of scientific details; but there are a good many well-executed illustrations, and there are many passages of interest. The abstract of the log of the voyage (pp. 385-8) will be of use for reference as to dates and localities.

35. '*Stray Feathers.*'

[*'Stray Feathers.'* A Journal of Ornithology for India and its Dependencies. Edited by Allan Hume. 1876. Vol. iv. nos. 4, 5, 6.]

These three numbers of '*Stray Feathers*,' issued in one part, conclude the fourth volume of this journal, which has certainly done much towards the advancement of our favourite science in India. The most important articles are those by Dr. Armstrong on the birds of the Irrawaddy delta, by Mr. F. Bourdillon and Mr. Hume on the birds of the Travancore hills, and Mr. Hume's account of his ornithological journey to the Laccadives and west coast. As regards the

Laccadives, which have not been previously examined, the birds and other animals obtained were exclusively common Indian species, and the general conclusion arrived at is that "the Laccadives have no distinctive fauna or flora." The following "novelties" are described:—*Estrilda burmanica* from Rangoon, *Alcippe bourdilloni* from Travancore, and *Montifringilla blanfordi* and *M. mandellii* from Sikim.

36. Sharpe's edition of Layard's 'Birds of South Africa.'

[The Birds of South Africa. By E. L. Layard, F.Z.S. &c. New edition, thoroughly revised and augmented, by R. Bowdler Sharpe, F.L.S., F.Z.S., &c., Senior Assistant, Zoological Department, British Museum. Part iv.]

After what has been said on the subject of antedating in 'Nature' (vol. xiv. pp. 309, 330, 351, 369, 392, 424, 474) in reference to this very work, we are certainly rather surprised that Mr. Sharpe should continue in the face of the strictures of his brother naturalists to issue another number in March 1877, dated "May 1875." It is, we suppose, the fault of the publisher, who wishes to use up his old covers; but we cannot consider the author otherwise than co-responsible.

So far as we can tell, *Saxicola shelleyi* from Victoria Falls, *S. anderssoni* from Great Namaqua Land, *Drymæca hypoxantha* from Natal, and *Acrocephalus fulvo-lateralis* from Natal are now described for the first time. But we must again repeat (*cf.* Ibis, 1875, p. 506) that the omission of all synonyms is in our opinion a very great demerit in the present edition of Mr. Layard's work, as it is only by reading the context that these and other points can be ascertained.

37. Heuglin's 'Journey in North-eastern Africa.'

[Reise in Nordost-Afrika. Schilderungen aus dem Gebiete der Beni-Amer und Habab, mit zoologischen Skizzen und einem Führer für Jagd-reisende, von M. Th. v. Heuglin. Zwei Bände. Braunschweig, 1877.]

These volumes give an account of the late Th. v. Heuglin's last African journey. In January and February 1875 Heuglin made a short excursion along the mountainous district

which borders the shores of the Red Sea between Suakim and Massowah.

In the first volume of the present work is given a narrative of the expedition, with some chapters of advice to hunters and sportsmen who may wish to resort to this easily accessible and thoroughly wild district. An excellent map is added.

The second volume is devoted to an account of the mammals and birds of the district, and forms a useful handbook for those who are acquainted with German. Of birds 416 species are enumerated. *Philothamna minor* (p. 182) and *Batis orientalis* (p. 194) are figured and described as new, we believe, for the first time, the latter having been previously referred to *Platystira pririt* and *P. senegalensis*.

38. *Elliot's Monograph of the Hornbills.*

[A Monograph of the Bucerotidæ, or Family of the Hornbills. By D. G. Elliot, F.R.S.E., F.L.S., &c. Part 1, small folio, 1877. Published by the Author.]

Mr. D. G. Elliot has commenced the issue of another of his beautifully illustrated monographs, and has chosen on this occasion the singular group of Hornbills for his subject. The six plates in the first number are excellently drawn by Keulemans, and coloured well. They represent the following species according to Mr. Elliot's nomenclature:—

Rhinoplax vigil.	Anorrhinus albocristatus.
Sphagolobus atratus.	Bycanistes subcylindricus.
Cranorrhinus waldeni.	Tockus monteiri.

We hope Mr. Elliot will not carry his subdivision of the genera of the Bucerotidæ to an extreme point, and that he will not insist on adopting more antiquated names than he can help. Does any ornithologist (unless he has just referred to Mr. Elliot's work) know what *Rhinoplax vigil* is? and must we necessarily adopt that specific name? As regards the species described and figured by J. R. Forster himself in his 'Zoologica Indica,' there can be no question; and his names have always been in use; but whether we are obliged to employ the terms assigned to the Planches Enluminées, Edwards's

plates, &c. in the 'Specimen Faunulæ Indicæ' thereto appended (of which *not* Forster but Pennant is stated to be the author), is another question. *We* are of opinion that they should be left in the obscurity in which they have remained since 1781, because to resuscitate them would cause a multitude of most inconvenient changes in our nomenclature; and nomenclature is, after all, a matter of convenience, not of right! The revival of Boddaert's "Table" was a great injury to ornithological nomenclature; the revival of Pennant's 'Specimen Faunulæ Indicæ' would be another.

Mr. Elliot does not state in his text where the specimens from which the figures are taken are to be found. It is always desirable to give this information, so as to facilitate subsequent identifications.

39. Gould's 'Birds of New Guinea.'

[The Birds of New Guinea and the adjacent Papuan Islands, including any new Species that may be discovered in Australia. By John Gould, F.R.S. &c. Part iv. Folio, 1877. Published by the Author, 26 Charlotte Street, Bedford Square, W.C.]

Of Mr. Gould's 'Birds of New Guinea' we have spoken on former occasions (Ibis, 1876, p. 363). The number already issued this year contains figures of

Pitta novæ-guinææ.	Melipotes gymnops.
—— rosenbergii.	Machæirhynchus albifrons.
Paradisea sanguinea.	—— nigripectus.
—— raggiana.	Psittacella brehmii.
Melirrhophetes leucostephes.	Malurus alboscapulatus.
—— ochromelas.	Parus arfaki.
Melidectes torquatus.	

Of great interest are the new forms of Meliphagidæ (*Melirrhophetes* and *Melidectes*) now figured for the first time from specimens furnished by Dr. Meyer. *Psittacella* is a scarce and novel form of the Psittacidæ; but is *Parus arfaki* a true *Parus*?

40. Gould's 'Birds of Asia.'

[The Birds of Asia. By J. Gould, F.R.S., &c. Dedicated to the Honourable East-India Company. Part xxix. Folio. London: 1877. Published by the Author, 26 Charlotte Street, Bedford Square, W.C.]

Mr. Gould's annual number of the 'Birds of Asia' gives us portraits of the following species :—

Rhodopechys sanguinea.	Actenoides hombroni.
Erythrospiza obsoleta.	—— lindsayi.
—— incarnata.	—— concretus.
Pitta baudii.	Sturnus unicolor.
—— gurneyi.	—— humii.
—— steerii.	Suthora munipurensis.
—— ussheri.	

The red-stained Mountain-Finches of the genus *Erythrospiza* and its allied forms are of great interest, but have been very unnecessarily cut up into too many subdivisions. *Erythrospiza incarnata* of Severtzoff ought, it appears, to bear the specific name *mongolica* of Swinhoe. *Sturnus humii* of Mr. Gould and of Mr. Brooks (Ibis, 1876, p. 500) appears to be the species just named *S. ambiguus* by the energetic ornithologist after whom Messrs. Brooks and Gould have independently proposed to call it*. We must also remark that Mr. Gould's reasons for including *S. unicolor* in the 'Birds of Asia' are rather inconsequent.

41. Rowley's 'Ornithological Miscellany.'

[Ornithological Miscellany. Edited by George Dawson Rowley, M.A., F.L.S., F.Z.S., Member of the British Ornithologists' Union. Parts vii. and viii. London: 1877, Trübner and Co.]

Mr. Rowley continues to publish fresh numbers of his favourite periodical. Part vii. gives us excellent figures of *Oriolus formosus* of the Sangi Islands (we really cannot use the unnecessary generic term which Mr. Rowley gives to this true Oriole), of the nest and eggs of White's Thrush, from examples obtained by Mr. Swinhoe near Ningpo, China, and of *Pitta rosenbergi* of the Schouten Islands. Mr. Rowley also gives us, with the assistance of Dr. Meyer, an excellent article on the genus *Loriculus*, with illustrations of four of these beautiful little Parrots—*L. catamene*, *L. regulus*, *L. exilis*, and *L. stigmatus*.

In part viii. we have a continuation of the useful translation of Prejevalsky's essay upon the birds of Mongolia and

* 'Stray Feathers,' iv. p. 512.

Eastern Tibet, and illustrations of two more beautiful Pittas—*P. cæruleitorquata* and *P. sanghirana* of the Sangir Islands, and of a rare and curious Pigeon—*Ptilopus insolitus*.

42. *Beccari's Account of the Playing-places of Amblyornis inornata.*

[Le Capanne ed i Giardini dell' *Amblyornis inornata*. Per O. Beccari. Ann. Mus. Civ. Genova, ix. p. 383.]

No more interesting chapter has been recently written in field-ornithology than Beccari's account of the wonderful constructions made by the Bower-bird of New Guinea, *Amblyornis inornata*, as observed by himself during his visit to Mount Arfak in 1875. *Amblyornis* builds for its amusement a perfect circular cabin, principally of the dry twigs of an epiphytous orchid (*Dendrobium*), measuring about a metre in diameter, and supported by a single central pillar. Before the entrance is a beautiful garden of dimensions rather greater than the cabin, made of the greenest moss, and ornamented from time to time with brilliantly coloured flowers and fruits, such as flowers of a most beautiful species of *Vaccinium*. This instinct is well known to the Malay hunters, who call the bird "Tukan kobou" or "Gardener." Had space permitted, we should have been glad to give a translation of Dr. Beccari's most interesting paper, although we cannot quite agree with some of the philosophical deductions which he appends to it.

43. *Salvadori's Recent Ornithological Papers.*

[(1) Osservazioni intorno alle specie del genere *Myristicivora*, Reichb. Ann. Mus. Civ. Genova, ix. p. 268.]

(2) Intorno alle specie del genere *Talegallus*, Less. Ann. Mus. Civ. Genova, ix. p. 327.

(3) Note intorno ad alcuni uccelli durante l'esplorazione del Fiume Fly. Per L. M. D'Albertis, C.M.Z.S. Ann. Mus. Civ. Genova, x. p. 5.]

Our ever-active friend Professor Salvadori continues his papers on points connected with the ornithology of New Guinea. In the first of those now before us the specific differences of three Fruit-Pigeons of the genus *Myristicivora* (*M. bicolor*, *M. spilorrhoea*, and *M. melanura*), which have

been recently denied by Mr. Sharpe (P. Z. S. 1875, p. 108 *et seq.*), are vindicated. In the second, two new species of *Talegallus* (*T. fuscirostris* from Southern New Guinea and the Arru Islands, and *T. arfakianus* from Mount Arfak) are described, the latter, however, being founded only on chicks. The third gives a translation with notes of D'Albertis's account of his collections on the Fly River, which we have reprinted above (p. 363 *et seq.*).

44. *Barboza du Bocage's Thirteenth List of African Birds.*

[Aves das possessões portuguezas de Africa occidental por J. V. Barboza du Bocage. (Decima terceira Lista.) Jornal de Sciencias math., phys. e nat. no. xxi. 1877.]

In this article Professor Barboza du Bocage gives a list of a collection of eighty-one specimens of birds, representing fifty-one species, recently made in Benguela by Sr. Anchieta. A new Barbet is described as *Pogonorhynchus leucogaster*. It is nearest to *P. leucocephalus*.

45. *Homeyer upon German Mammals and Birds.*

[Deutschlands Säugethiere und Vögel, ihr Nutzen und Schaden. Von E. F. v. Homeyer. In Commission bei Dr. Rey in Leipzig. 8vo, pp. 81, n. d.]

Hr. E. F. v. Homeyer, a well-known devotee to our science, gives, in the present essay, a summary of the useful and noxious qualities of the mammals and birds of the Fatherland, in relation to the question of their legislative protection, a topic, in all civilized countries, of rapidly increasing importance. It would have been well if such a carefully drawn-up series of observations had been prepared by a competent naturalist in this country before the recent Acts for the protection of such birds and waterfowl were passed. Hr. v. Homeyer states that the Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) is the most useful bird in Germany; and as regards that country we may well accept most of his conclusions. But when he says "*in England gibt es seit längerer Zeit keine Füchse mehr*" (!) we must come to the conclusion that he does not know much of what goes on in England. We are really afraid to translate the sentence, lest it should be thought suggestive of the horrible idea.

46. *Allen's 'Progress of Ornithology in the United States.'*

[Progress of Ornithology in the United States during the last century. By J. A. Allen. *American Naturalist*, vol. x. p. 536.]

This essay of Mr. Allen's gives a succinct account of the rise and progress of the study of our science in the United States from the days of Alexander Wilson (1808) to the present period, and is well worthy of the attention of all ornithologists. When Bonaparte finished his continuation of Wilson's work in 1833, about 400 species of birds had been described as appertaining to the avifauna of the United States. "At the present time the number of generally accepted species entitled to recognition as birds of that portion of North America north of Mexico is not less than six hundred and fifty, with, in addition, about one hundred and fifty commonly recognized subspecies, or about eight hundred recognized forms.

"The nests, eggs, and general habits of nearly all are now well known, particularly of those which occur east of the Rocky Mountains."

"Another phase of progress," Mr. Allen observes, "that should not pass unnoticed in this connexion is the attention that has been paid to the geographical distribution of the species, with especial reference to the determination of the different faunal areas in North America, many of which are already known with a tolerable degree of definiteness, also the tendency to study the various subspecific and specific forms from a geographical and evolutionary standpoint. Formerly the study of our birds was pursued wholly analytically, and forms from distant, little-known localities which differed slightly from their near affines of neighbouring regions, were looked upon as distinct 'species.' Later, as the material for a better knowledge of the subject accumulated, specimens of an intermediate character came to light, which, so long as they were few, were naturally looked upon as probably hybrids between the forms whose characters they seemed to combine. Still later, however, it was found that certain strains of deviation from pronounced types occurred in a large number of species belonging to widely different families inhabiting the

same areas. This led to the discovery of laws of geographical variation, connecting particular phases of local differentiation with the topographical and climatic peculiarities of the regions where they so uniformly occur. Many of the isolated facts bearing on this subject had been observed and placed on record prior even to 1860; but their full import was not realized till after the lapse of another decade, during which our stores of material had become vastly increased. In 1871 the 'new departure' was for the first time fairly entered upon, which in three years revolutionized the nomenclature of North-American ornithology, adding an important chapter on philosophical zoology, and exerting great influence in many other departments of North-American zoology. Naturally a view that threatened either to assign fully one sixth of the previously recognized species to the limbo of synonymy, or to lower them to the grade of geographical races, was not rashly espoused by those to whom belonged the credit of the recognition and description of these previously supposed specific forms; but so overwhelming were the facts in its favour found to be, that one after another of our leading writers soon gave it their endorsement, so that probably a greater degree of unanimity of opinion respecting any problem in ornithology never obtained than now exists among our ornithologists respecting the subject of geographical variation among our birds, and the subspecific relationship of many forms which, when first made known, seemed unquestionably of specific rank.

"The next step, and apparently a wholly logical one in the revolution, will doubtless be the general adoption of a trinomial system of nomenclature for the more convenient expression of the relationship of what are conventionally termed 'subspecific,' so that we may write, for instance, *Falco communis anatum* in place of the more cumbersome *Falco communis*, subsp. *anatum*. This system is already, in fact, to some extent in use here, though looked upon with strong disfavour by our transatlantic fellow-workers, who seem as yet not fully to understand the nature of the recent rapid advance ornithology has made in this country, or to appreciate

the thoroughly substantial character of the evidence on which it is based.

“The constant and energetic exploration of the great North and North-west, of the vast trans-Mississippian region, and of our subtropical borders, during the last two decades, by scores of indefatigable collectors and observers, has certainly not been in vain, as witness the hundreds and often thousands of specimens of single species, representing the gradually varying phases presented at hundreds of localities, that have passed through the hands of our specialists.”

47. *Pelzeln on Birds from Ecuador.*

[Ueber eine weitere Sendung von Vögeln aus Ecuador. (Verh. zool.-bot. Gesellsch. in Wien, 1876, p. 765.)]

This paper contains a short list of birds, in continuation of a previous memoir on the same subject (*op. cit.* 1874, p. 171). Several of the species mentioned do not appear to have been recorded before from Ecuador. The Humming-birds seem to have come in for a large share of the collectors' attention; and in the list of them we notice the name of the rare *Eutoxeres condensinii*, of which very few specimens have as yet reached Europe. One species is named with doubt *Steganura underwoodi*; should not this rather be called *S. melanathera*, or perhaps Mr. Gould's lately described *S. solstitialis*? The female of the latter is distinguishable by its rufous thighs. The exact locality in the Republic where these specimens were obtained is not stated.

48. *Pelzeln on Additions to the Imperial Museum at Vienna.*

[Ueber eine von Herrn Dr. Richard Ritter von Drasche dem k.k. zoologischen Hofcabinete zum Geschenk gemachte Sendung von Vögelbälgen. (Verh. zool.-bot. Gesellsch. in Wien, 1876, p. 717.)]

Unfortunately the exact origin of the ninety-seven specimens treated of in this paper was not recorded; but the greater part of them, it is stated, came from Celebes, the remainder from the Moluccas and Papuan Islands. One species (*Rectes draschii*), allied to *R. dichrous*, is described as new; and the Pigeon recently characterized by Herr Brügg-

mann (Abh. Nat. Ver. z. Bremen, 1876, p. 84) as *Carpophaga pæcilorrhœa* is placed in the genus *Gymnophaps*, and a figure (plate xiii.) of it given.

49. *Pelzel's Report on the Progress of Ornithology in 1875.*

[Bericht über die Leistungen in der Naturgeschichte der Vögel während des Jahres 1875. (Wieg. Arch. xxxii. pp. 144-208.)]

This report upon the ornithological work of the year 1875, furnished by Herr von Pelzel to Wiegmann's 'Archiv,' appears, like its predecessors, to be very complete, especially as regards the list of publications bearing upon the general subject. We also notice that several past omissions are now inserted; so that the report is perhaps enlarged somewhat beyond the dimensions due to the year to which it specially relates. There are a few points in the classification of the special portion which seem to us now to require some modification. The *Hirundinidæ* and the *Trochilidæ* cannot, we think, properly be allowed to continue in the positions here assigned to them. Though the *Upupidæ* have often been classed with the Passeres, and even placed near the Larks by Sundevall, their retention in that Order cannot be seriously maintained; still less the junction of the *Bucerotidæ* with the Passeres Conirostres. Is it not time, too, to remove the Struthiones from the midst of the Carinatae? In a work like the present it would be unwise to adopt every new point in classification as it appears to be made out; at the same time we venture to suggest that some modification is occasionally necessary to avoid the prolonged retention of an obsolete system.

50. *Baird's 'Ornithology of Utah.'*

[Exploration across the great Basin of Utah. Appendix K, pp. 373-381. Ornithology. A List of Birds. By Prof. Spencer F. Baird. 4to. Washington: 1876.]

This is a list of the birds obtained during an exploration of the great basin of Utah, as long ago as 1859, by the engineering department of the United-States army, in charge of Captain J. H. Simpson. The whole collection consisted of 258 specimens, comprising 114 species. These have been classi-

fied by Prof. Baird according to the system prevailing in the United States, the locality of each specimen being given. None of the species appears to call for any special comment; but the list adds to our knowledge of the distribution of North-American birds, a subject which our Transatlantic brethren have long laboured at with great industry and success.

51. *Major Godwin-Austen's List of Birds from the Hills of the North-east Frontier of India.*

[Fifth List of Birds from the Hill Ranges of the North-east Frontier of India. By Major H. H. Godwin-Austen, F.R.G.S. &c. (J. A. S. B. xlv. pt. 2, p. 191.)]

A list of the birds collected by officers of the Topographical Survey of India in the Munipur and Nágá hills, and by Major Godwin-Austen himself in the Khási hills, is given in this paper, which adds another to the useful series of memoirs Major Godwin-Austen has published on the birds of these remote districts. Most of the new species obtained during these expeditions have already been described in this Journal (*Ibis*, 1875, p. 250 *et seqq.*) and elsewhere; but others are characterized in this article. Thus we have a new *Alcippe* from the Nágá hills allied to *A. hueti* of Père David, and called *A. fusca*, and *Neornis albiventris*, a new Warbler from the Munipur valley, allied to *N. assimilis*, Hodgs. Three species are figured (plates v., vi., vii.), viz. *Acridotheres albocincta*, *Sphenocichla roberti*, and *Pyctorhis altirostris*.

XXXIII.—*Letters, Announcements, &c.*

The following letters, addressed "To the Editors of 'The Ibis,'" have been received:—

SIRS,—In 1875 the Asiatic Society of Bengal did me the honour of intrusting to me the task of editing the posthumous Catalogue of the Birds of Burma written by Mr. Blyth. While in no degree underrating the responsibility of the duty I was asked to perform, I accepted the trust with some confidence, because Mr. Blyth, not very long before